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PRESS RELEASE

The Vietnamese Community Celebrates 30 Years in Canada (1975-2005): Launching of the *Vietnamese Boat People Museum Project*

In celebration of 30 years of the Vietnamese community in Canada, the Vietnamese Canadian Federation will be holding a two-day national workshop on December 17-18, 2005 at the Travelodge Hotel, 1376 Carling Ave., Ottawa, to highlight the “**Achievements, Opportunities, and Challenges**” of its members over the last three decades. A gala dinner (6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.) will also be held on Saturday, December 17, at the same location, in conjunction with an exhibition on the community’s achievements. The entertainment program of the gala and a silent painting auction will showcase talented Vietnamese Canadians who are, or will be, the success stories in a wide range of artistic fields. On this occasion, the Federation will launch its **Vietnamese Boat People Museum Project**, as announced at the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Project 4000 last year.

In 1975, there were barely 1,000 Vietnamese in Canada. Today community members number approximately 170,000, many of whom, if not most, were Boat People or are children and grandchildren of those taking flight for freedom and enduring the perilous exodus over high seas where thousands and thousands did not survive. History has turned to a new chapter for the Vietnamese Boat People since.

Thirty years have gone by. Vietnamese Canadians have become a permanent part of Canada through social, economic, and political integration. The Vietnamese community as a whole has contributed to the enrichment of Canada’s mosaic culture, and, at the same time, to the building of this country’s future. In this context, Vietnamese Canadians from all walks of life have shown that they have risen above the difficulties and challenges faced by all refugees and immigrants, and have achieved tangible success in their adopted homeland.

The workshop will provide an opportunity for Vietnamese Canadians from across the country to discuss issues on the evolution of the community, its integration into Canadian society, its achievements, the opportunities that are open to its members, and the challenges they are facing in various areas such as culture, business, services, and sciences and technology. Most importantly, this gathering will also address the roles of the younger Vietnamese generations in the community’s and Canada’s future development.

The Vietnamese Canadian Federation is a national umbrella organization established since 1980 to coordinate the Vietnamese community’s social, cultural, and sports activities.

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